Case 2847

Ascopora Trautschold, 1876 (Bryozoa, Cryptostomata): proposed designation of *Ceriopora nodosa* Fischer von Waldheim, 1837 as the type species

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is the designation of *Ceriopora nodosa* Fischer von Waldheim, 1837 as the type species of the Carboniferous bryozoan genus *Ascopora* Trautschold, 1876. This is the taxonomic species misidentified by Trautschold as *Millepora rhombifera* Phillips, 1836.

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1. Trautschold (1876, p. 367) established the genus *Ascopora* for small erect dendroid bryozoans characterised by an axial region composed of several elongate tubes, based on material from the Lower Carboniferous of Russia. He assigned his material to the nominal species *Millepora rhombifera* Phillips, 1836 and placed several other species in synonymy with this, including *Ceriopora nodosa* Fischer von Waldheim, 1837, *Millepora gracilis* Phillips, 1841 and *Monticulipora tumida* (Phillips, 1836). Trautschold (1876, p. 368) described his material as having 13 longitudinal rows of 'pores' (autozooecial apertures) and lacking any surface ornament except for the presence of four small pits which surrounded autozooecial apertures. He stated that he had not examined the types of *Millepora rhombifera* and could not be certain if his material was conspecific with Phillips's species but thought this likely.

2. In 1836 John Phillips had described and illustrated a number of bryozoans including (p. 199, pl. 1, figs. 34–35) a new species *Millepora rhombifera* from the Lower Carboniferous of Bolland, Yorkshire, England. He described this species as having 'branches cylindrical, with acute rhomboidal cells in quincunx'. *Millepora rhombifera* was subsequently attributed to the genus *Ceriopora* by several authors (d'Orbigny, 1850; Morris, 1854; Jukes, 1857; Baily, 1875). John Young (1874, p. 401) reported that he and Prof J. Young had recognised a central axial cylinder in specimens of *Ceriopora rhombifera*. These were described and figured by Young & Young (1874, p. 337) who established a new genus *Rhabdomeson* for this and other species of small erect cylindrical bryozoans with central hollow axes from which autozooecia were budded.

3. Although Phillips's type specimens of *Millepora rhombifera* are no longer extant, specimens of his taxon have been collected by many workers from similar horizons in the British Isles and elsewhere. *Rhabdomeson rhombiferum* (Phillips, 1836) consists of very delicate dendroid zoaria composed of cylindrical branches. Autozooecia are budded in an annular pattern from an ill-defined central axial cylinder. Autozooecial apertures are pyriform to ellipsoidal in shape and arranged in eight to 11 longitudinal rows around branches. Autozooecial apertures vary greatly in size and spacing around branches. Small heterostyles of varying diameter are developed in a single row surrounding apertures and in proximal interapertural areas. *Rhabdomeson rhombiferum* occurs

in strata of Lower to Upper Carboniferous age and has a wide geographical distribution in the British Isles (Phillips, 1836; M'Coy, 1844; Griffith, 1862; Young & Young, 1875; Vine, 1881, 1885, 1889; Bassler, 1929) and in Belgium (Demanet, 1938). Although '*R. rhombiferum* Phillips' has been recorded from the former Soviet Union (e.g. by Morozova, 1955; Shulga-Nesterenko, 1955) this material is not conspecific with the British form.

4. Trautschold (1876) incorrectly identified his material as conspecific with *M. rhombifera* Phillips, 1836, which on close examination bears little resemblance to his own. *Ascopora* is characterised by an axial bundle of as many as 30 axial zooecia, whereas *Rhabdomeson* has an axis consisting of a single axial cylinder. Fritz (1963, p. 54) remarked that Trautschold's 'selection of the genotype for *Ascopora* would seem to have been not in the best order'. Trautschold's material belongs to *Ceriopora nodosa* Fischer von Waldheim, 1837 (p. 166), an erect delicate cryptostome with a central axial bundle of as many as 20 axial zooecia (Gorjunova, 1975, 1985). This view is held by researchers in the former Soviet Union, many of whom cite *Ascopora nodosa* (Fischer von Waldheim, 1837) as the type species of the genus *Ascopora* (e.g. Nikiforova, 1938; Shulga-Nesterenko, 1955; Gorjunova, 1985). However, in strict accordance with the Code, the nominal species *Millepora rhombifera* Phillips is still formally cited as the type species of *Ascopora* by western researchers (e.g. McKinney, 1972; Blake, 1983; Karklins, 1986) and in a few Russian publications, even though they all use the genus in the taxonomic sense of *C. nodosa*. To retain *Millepora rhombifera* as the type species would contravene current usage and cause confusion and I propose that *Ceriopora nodosa* be designated as the type species.

5. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

(1) to use its plenary powers to set aside all previous fixations of type species for the nominal genus *Ascopora* Trautschold, 1876 and to designate *Ceriopora nodosa* Fischer von Waldheim, 1837 as the type species;

(2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Ascopora* Trautschold, 1876 (gender: feminine), type species by designation in (1) above *Ceriopora nodosa* Fischer von Waldheim, 1837;

(3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *nodosa* Fischer von Waldheim, 1837, as published in the binomen *Ceriopora nodosa* (specific name of the type species of *Ascopora* Trautschold, 1876).

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